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**FAX**

Date:

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Attorney General

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From:

R Berglund

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REMARKS:

☐ Urgent

☐ For your review

☐ Reply ASAP

☐ Please comment

## RICHARD L. BERGLUND

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January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

After considerable time and money, the Department of Justice and Microsoft have reached an agreement ending the three-year-long antitrust case against Microsoft. **I want to give my support to this agreement and ask that you do also.**

Personally, I do not think the case against Microsoft was warranted. The suit, in my opinion, was the only way left for Microsoft's competitors to "clip" Microsoft's wings, having failed to compete successfully with the Microsoft in the open market. I use Microsoft, but when I walk into a store and make a choice, I do so freely. I can choose other software packages, but choose Microsoft because it works.

Anyone who is in the computer industry today has to be very quick and very smart. Bill Gates was simply smarter and quicker. Technology today changes so quickly; a program is obsolete by the time it gets on the shelf. What will the competitors of Microsoft do if some other firm out-performs them. Will every successful company be faced with a lawsuit from their competitors as a way to keep them in line? If this is so, I would image the Department of Justice will be kept pretty busy.

The agreement reached did not let Microsoft off easy. Microsoft has to configure their Windows' software programs as to permit the insertion of non-Microsoft programs; Microsoft has also agreed to disclose source codes for their Windows' operating system products. Microsoft has even agreed to a technical committee to monitor future actions.

Frankly if I were Bill Gates I would move the entire Microsoft operation to British Columbia. Perhaps he would then have a governmental/ legal system that realizes the benefit to the national economy of Bill Gates and Microsoft.

Do not punish success. Give your support to this agreement. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Berglund